

~~SECRET~~

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5:40 A.M. Sunday 12 May 68

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FROM WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM
TO THE PRESIDENT
INFO WALT POSTON
CITE CAP 1074

~~SECRET~~

E U R O P E

US REACTION TO SOVIET TROOP MOVEMENTS

WE HAVE AUTHORIZED EMBASSY BOMB TO ASSURE WEST GERMAN LEADERS, IN RESPONSE TO THEIR CONCERN, THAT THE US HAS NO INTENTION OF TAKING UNILATERAL ACTION WHICH COULD EXACERBATE THE SITUATION. WE AGREE THAT WESTERN BROADCASTS SHOULD BE RESTRAINED, NONINFLAMMATORY AND FACTUAL. EMBASSIES IN NATO COUNTRIES MAY DIVULGE OUR POSITION AS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY TO CALM ALLIED CONCERN, BUT MUST AVOID MAKING OUR INTENTIONS PUBLIC, WHICH COULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE.

CZECH SITUATION

PRAGUE -- EMBASSY PRAGUE COMMENTS THAT RUMORS AND SPECULATION ARE PERHAPS INEVITABLE IN THE CURRENT SITUATION OF JANGLED NERVES. THE EMBASSY OBSERVES THAT CZECH LEADERS ARE PLAYING IT COOL, DISMISSING THE PERSISTENT RUMORS OF POTENTIALLY HOSTILE TROOP MOVEMENTS AS REGULAR EXERCISES, AND EXPLOITING THE PRESENT CZECH HOLIDAYS TO STRESS NATIONAL UNITY AND FRATERNAL TIES WITH THE USSR AND POLAND.

MOSCOW -- EMBASSY MOSCOW REPORTS THAT THE FRENCH EMBASSY THERE HAS ESSENTIALLY THE SAME STORY AS WAS RELAYED FROM BELGRADE. THE FRENCH EMBASSY VERSION INCLUDES CZECH MILITARY MOVES ALONG THE POLISH FRONTIER AND A POSSIBLE INTERNAL CZECH COUP WITH DURECK PLAYING A "KADAR ROLE" UNDER SOVIET PROTECTION. HOWEVER AMBASSADOR THOMPSON IS SKEPTICAL AND CONSIDERS THESE STORIES PLANTS, THE OBJECTIVE OF WHICH REMAINS UNCLEAR.

WARSAW -- EMBASSY WARSAW REPORTS THAT LEADERS OF THE POLISH DEFENSE ESTABLISHMENT HAVE POINTEDLY APPEARED IN RECENT DAYS IN LOCALITIES FAR FROM THE CZECH BORDER. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES POLISH LEADERS HAVE DECIDED TO GIVE CZECH LEADER DURECK FULL SUPPORT WITH THE HOPZ OF HELPING HIM KEEP CONTROL OF THE SITUATION, THUS PREVENTING POTENTIAL DAMAGE TO POLISH INTERESTS.

BRITISH SEC PLANS

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E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.6
NLI/RAC 99-209
By *SJ* NARA, Date 12-5-02

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